Increasing Frequency of DTC Buses

2529. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of Central Governmet employees residing in Raj Nagar (B Avenues), Nauroji Nagar area of New Delhi have to commute daily from there to Connaught Place Central Secretariat and back;

(b) whether it is also a fact that DTC can earn a lot of amount if it increases the frequency of buses plying on that route;

(c) if so, by when DTC propose to raise the frequency of its buses on the said route; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons that DTC is not keen in raising its resources by utilising every available opportunity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The earning per km. on this route shows a downward trend. Moreover, due to fleet constraint. it is not possible to add more buses on these routes.

Raising of depreciation on rates for shipping companies

2530. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to raise the depreciation rate from the existing 20 percent to 33 per cent for the shipping companies:

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor: and

(c) what other measures Government propose to take so as to provide fillip to the shipping industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGRISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government have taken the following measures for the healthy growth of Indian Shipping industry:—

1. **Automatic approval is now given for:**

(i) Acquisition of all categories of ships except crude tankers and OSVs, by Private Shipowning Companies.

(ii) Sale of ships for further trading/ scrapping to a company wihin India or abroad.

(iii) Acquisition of ship from an Indian Shipyard; and

(iv) Acquisition for replacement tonnage.

2. Shipping Companies have been allowed to retain sale proceeds of their ships abroad and utilise them for fresh acquisition

3. Shipping companies have been given freedom to time charter out Indian ships to foreign shipping companies.

4. Shipping companies are allwed to acquire vessels through bare boat charter-cum-demise method.

5. Quarterly Block Allocaton Scheme for repair of ships has been dispensed with entirely and Reserve Bank of India now releases foregn exchange for ship repair/dry docking and spares for imported capital goods without any value limit.

Freight charges on account of movement of fertilizer and petroleum products are now allowed to be paid in convertible currency on par with other commodities.

7. Certain Sections of Merchant Shipping Act were considered by foreign lenders as impediments to the enforce-